

the weapons that we know he has. So the decision on peace rests in his hands. We all want peace.

And I'm here today to help my friend President Bush to convince everybody that this is in the interest of everybody. And if we are all united, the European Union, the United States, the Federation of Russia, everybody, all the other states under the United Nations, then Saddam Hussein will understand that he will have no other option but to reveal the arms and to destroy them.

President Bush. Along those lines, let me make one clarification on my statement. I think that no matter how Mr. Saddam is dealt with, the goal of disarming Iraq still stays the same, regardless of who is in charge of the Government. And that's very important for the Iraqi people to know.

And I also want to assure Silvio that should we require military action, shortly after our troops go in will go food and medicine and supplies to the Iraqi people. We will, of course, win militarily, if we have to. But we'll also want to make sure that we win the peace as well.

Would you care to call on somebody in the Italian press?

Italy-U.S. Relations

Q. Mr. Prime Minister, I just had a question. You expressed your sentiment to friendship for the United States, and loyalty. Now, will you be ready to commit Italy to go along with the United States should the United States put together a coalition of the willing, as the President has said?

And to you, Mr. President, do you expect Mr. Berlusconi—

Assistant Press Secretary Reed Dickens. Only one question.

President Bush. I would have answered it, but they said no. [Laughter] But I don't even know the question. Go ahead.

Prime Minister Berlusconi. We will never forget that we owe our freedom—our freedom—our wealth to the United States of America—and our democracy. And we also will never forget that there have been many American young lives that were lost and sacrificed themselves for us.

So for us, the United States is not only our friend, but they are the guarantee of our

democracy and our freedom. And I already had the opportunity to say this to President Bush: Every time I see the U.S. flag, I don't see the flag only representative of a country, but I see it as a symbol of democracy and of freedom.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thanks.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:13 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. Except for his opening remarks, Prime Minister Berlusconi spoke in Italian, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Statement on Joining the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor Collaboration

January 30, 2003

I am pleased to announce that the United States will join ITER, an ambitious international research project to harness the promise of fusion energy. The results of ITER will advance the effort to produce clean, safe, renewable, and commercially available fusion energy by the middle of this century. Commercialization of fusion has the potential to dramatically improve America's energy security while significantly reducing air pollution and emissions of greenhouse gases.

The United States will be working with the United Kingdom, other European Union nations, Russia, China, Japan, and Canada on the creation of ITER. Today, I am directing the Secretary of Energy to represent the United States at the upcoming ITER meetings in St. Petersburg, Russia. We welcome the opportunity to work with our partners to make fusion energy a reality.

Statement on Senate Confirmation of John Snow as Secretary of the Treasury

January 30, 2003

I am pleased that the Senate acted quickly to confirm John Snow as Secretary of the Treasury. John will work with me to strengthen economic growth and create jobs so that everyone who seeks work can find work. I

thank Chairman Grassley and Senator Baucus and commend them for their leadership.

Proclamation—American Heart Month, 2003

January 30, 2003

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Advances in medical research have significantly improved our capacity to fight heart disease by providing greater knowledge about its causes, more innovative diagnostic tools to detect and counter it, and new and improved treatments that help people survive and recover from it. Despite these advances, heart disease continues to be America's number one killer. During American Heart Month, we renew our commitment to fighting cardiovascular disease by encouraging our citizens to learn more about its risk factors, its various warning signs, and life-saving emergency response techniques.

Heart attacks result when the blood supply to part of the heart muscle is severely reduced or stopped. Because many heart attack victims do not recognize the warning signs until it is too late, only one in five is able to reach a hospital quickly enough to benefit fully from treatments. To help Americans survive heart attacks, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), which is part of the National Institutes of Health, has joined with the American Heart Association (AHA) and other national organizations to create a major educational campaign, called "Act in Time to Heart Attack Signs." This campaign encourages Americans to learn the warning signs of a heart attack and to call 911 within minutes—five at most—of the start of symptoms. The campaign also offers educational materials for both the general public and healthcare professionals to encourage communication among doctors, other healthcare providers, and their patients about the importance of recognizing heart attack signs and getting treatment quickly.

Far too many Americans are also unaware of the dangers of cardiac arrest, in which the heart suddenly loses its ability to function.

Most cases of cardiac arrest that result in sudden death occur when the diseased heart's electrical impulses become rapid and then chaotic. About 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital. However, if treated within a few minutes, cardiac arrest can be reversed through defibrillation, an electric shock that allows the heart to resume a normal beat.

Research has shown that early cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and rapid defibrillation, combined with early advanced care, can produce long-term survival rates of 40 percent where a cardiac arrest has been witnessed by a bystander. The AHA has developed a nationwide educational campaign called "Operation Heartbeat," to increase public awareness about cardiac arrest. "Operation Heartbeat" is educating the public about the warning signs of cardiac arrest, the importance of calling 911 immediately, and the benefits of administering CPR until defibrillation can be given.

When Americans take personal steps to improve their health, our whole society benefits. By developing good eating habits, being physically active, taking advantage of preventive screenings, and avoiding drugs, tobacco, and excessive use of alcohol, individuals and families can significantly reduce the onset and burden of heart disease. In promoting new education programs, supporting research, expanding access to life-saving tools, and encouraging our citizens to learn more about cardiovascular disease and lead healthy lifestyles, we can save lives.

In recognition of the important ongoing fight against cardiovascular disease, the Congress, by Joint Resolution approved December 30, 1963, as amended (77 Stat. 843; 36 U.S.C. 101), has requested that the President issue an annual proclamation designating February as "American Heart Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim February 2003 as American Heart Month. I invite the Governors of the States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, officials of other areas subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, and the American people to join me in reaffirming our commitment to combating cardiovascular disease.